Gorkhaland issue

220. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state what efforts have so far been made by the Central Government for the settlement of Gorkhaland issue with the Gorkha National Liberation Front?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): In close co-operation with the Government of West Bengal, the Central Government had made effort at finding a solution to the agitation of the Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) Formal meetings have been held from time to time between the Home Minister and the GNLF leadership. The issues have also been discussed between the Central Government and the State Government. As a result of such consultations, Shri Subash Ghisingh met the Home Minister in New Delhi on 24th June, 1987 and 16th June, 1987. Consequent to these discussions, a delegation led by Shri Subash Ghisingh met the Prime Minister on 22nd July, 1987. The process of discussions is continuing.

Inclusion of Nepali in the Eighth Schedule

211. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that West Bengal Government is agreeable to the demand for the inclusion of Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution and also for granting regional autonomy to Darjeeling; and

(b) if so, whether the Central Government propose to give effect to both these measures in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Reply is awaited from the State Government.

Killing of bus passengers by terrorists in Haryana

222. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of persons travelling in two different Haryana Roadways buses were killed/injured by terrorists near Hissar on July 7, 1987;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether any inquiry has since been conducted into the incident; and

(d) what steps are being taken by the Central Government to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Armed terrorists travelling in a jeep stopped a Haryana Roadways Bus at about 8 PM on 7th July, 1987 in district Hissar by blocking the road. The assailants entered the bus and fired indiscriminately killing 29 persons on the spot. Thereafter the assailants left the jeep, stopped a car, killed the driver of the car and moved in the car towards the town Fatehbad. At about 8.30 PM they stopped another

Haryana Roadways bus. They fired at the passengers from outside through the windows. The passengers took shelter in between the seats. Four passengers who came out of the bus were shot dead. The assailants abandoned the car and fled away towards Fatehbad in two trucks.

A case has been registered in connection with the incident and all out efforts are being made to apprehend the culprits.

(d) The matter was discussed in a meeting held on 11.7.87 with the senior officers of Punjab, Haryana and other neighouring States. Steps are being taken to ensure security of bus passengers and to introduce convey system of buses duly escorted for night services.

Workers losing jobs in major industries in West Bengal

223. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in "The Hindustan Times" of the 7th June, 1987 captioned "Workers steadily losing jobs in major Bengal industry";

(b) if so, the number of workers who lost their jobs during the last three years, year-wise in such industries in West Bengal; and

(c) what steps the Central Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) According to Government of West Bengal, the average daily employment in major industries of the State marginally declined from 7.97 lakhs in 1983 to 7.91 lakhs in 1984 and to 7.84 lakhs in 1985. A Statement showing industry-wise position for certain major industries is attached. (*See* below) These figures, however, are not comprehensive due to non-receipt of information from many units.

(c) Government have taken a series of steps to combat industrial sickness including setting up of a Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction which oversees and implements rehabilitation packages for sick units. In the case of jute industry, Government have created a Jute Modernisation Fund and a Special Development Fund for modernisation and rehabilitation of the jute mills. In order to protect the jute industry against competition from synthetics, Government have also enacted the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packaging Commodities) Act, 1987 providing for the compulsory use of jute bags in certain industries.

Statement

Number of workers by certain major industries (1983-85)

Industry	1983	1984	1985
1. Cotton Textiles	55,000	64,845	63,738
2. Jute Industry	237,359	233,175	228,788
3. Engineering	353,318	349,043	351,021
4. Chemicals and Chemical Products	35,365	35,608	36,188
5. Iron and Steel	57,445	61,792	55,012
6. Paper and Paper Products	18,782	16,846	18,339